
Agency Information

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TRAFFICANTE, SANTO
ROSSELLI, JOHN
ORGANIZED CRIME

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TRAFFICANTE, SANTO

DOCUMENT TYPE : REPORT
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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

ROBERT L. CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS

MEMORANDUM

To: Mike Madigan

From: Ed Greissing

Date: Sept. 16, 1976

Subject: Review of CIA documents presented the SCI by Jack Anderson

The documents recently received by this Committee, from Jack Anderson, had previously been reviewed by the Church Committee staff. The documents appear to be a few of those requested for FOIA review by David Belin. It is my understanding, after these documents were declassified, David Belin furnished copies to both David Martin(AP) and Jack Anderson.

The Church Committee was permitted to review the entire Oswald 201 file, the AMLASH file, Garrison files and selected Office of Security files. The Committee primarily concerned itself with the early period of the investigation(November 1963 - October 1964), as it believed the information to be received from this time period to be more relevant in evaluating the performance of the intelligence agencies with respect to their investigation.

Dan Niescher, the Church Committee contact at the CIA, was the individual responsible for the declassification of documents relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. During this declassification process, Dan Niescher consulted the Committee staff to make sure that we were aware of certain documents. In addition, Mr. Kaleras had given the staff unlimited access to all files we believed necessary to conduct our investigation.

Yet, the possibility still remains that the staff was not shown everything. The CIA has maintained throughout that the Oswald 201 file was a complete compilation of the material related to the assassination of President Kennedy. However, information relating to who Lee Harvey Oswald was, and what he was doing are not included in their files. The Oswald 201 does not attempt to question Oswald's connection with both pro-Castro and anti-Castro groups or any of the AMLASH information. The most notable subject missing was information relating to CIA/U.S. Government attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro.

Doc to Rosselli file

*re. n. j. nelson w/
LaBreegue
12/22/76*

.
No, I can't either confirm or deny it. We are prohibited at staff level from discussing any Committee business. I apologize for not being able to help you. You know the ground rules and they haven't changed. Right.

.
I can't say. I don't know. You indicated that you . . .

.
Are you still working Rosselli? You getting anywhere?

.
You got a pretty good source on that? On the fact that they were having dinner together on many occasions before he was murdered?

.
I just can't help you because of the ground rules. I'd like to have a copy of your piece, or two, for me and Inderfurth here. Just drop a copy in the mail and I'll appreciate it.

.
You mean people like . . . Well, I think . . . people like Trafficante?

.
Well, I can't discuss whether or not such a meeting took place. I can't tell you whether you're right or wrong.

.
Now when you talk about Trafficante you don't need to be

cautioned. You know them as well as I do.

.

Well, as far as our rules are concerned, it wouldn't make any difference if Trafficante was here. It wouldn't make any difference in our ability to confirm or deny that.

.

Trafficante Made Secret Appearance At Senate Investigation, Sources Say

By RON LABRECQUE
Herald Staff Writer

Florida's reputed organized crime boss, Santos Trafficante of Tampa and Miami, made a secret, four-hour October appearance before the Senate Intelligence Committee to answer questions about his role in a CIA assassination plot, investigation sources have disclosed.

Trafficante, 62, had not previously been questioned by the committee or its staff in the two-year-old investigation of CIA activities.

Of the three Mafia figures involved in the early 1960s plot to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, only Trafficante is still alive. Both Sam Giancana and John Rosselli were murdered within the last 16 months.

The murders are unsolved.

INVESTIGATORS ALSO said that Trafficante had dinner with Rosselli at The Landings, a Fort Lauderdale restaurant, in mid-July, less than two weeks before Rosselli disappeared. Rosselli's body, stuffed in an oil drum, floated to the surface of Dumbounding Bay the first week of August.

Trafficante reportedly has told police that the July dinner with Rosselli — as well as several other meetings previously at the Cordoba Restaurant in Miami, formerly owned by the husband of Rosselli's niece, according to police — were "friendly" social events with no business.

Investigators in recent weeks have centered their efforts on tracing the whereabouts of Trafficante's associates at the time of Rosselli's disappearance, a source said.



John Rosselli
...dined with Trafficante

years has maintained a home at 740 NE 155th St. in North Dade, could not be reached for comment. Trafficante was identified as the head of a South Florida Mafia family in testimony in 1963 before a U.S. Senate subcommittee.

HIS ATTORNEY, Henry Gonzalez of Tampa, who accompanied Trafficante when he went to Washington, according to sources, would not comment on either the Senate appearance or Trafficante's past activities. When first asked about the Senate appearance, he said, "You realize you're treading on dangerous ground."

A committee source said that Trafficante had not been questioned previously by the committee because his role in the plot had been considered "secondary." Interest was renewed in the plot after Rosselli's death. Investigators

sought to determine whether the murders of the two men were connected in any way with their testimony or potential testimony before the committee.

GIANCANA, WHO was a Mafia boss in Chicago for many years, was killed in June 1975, at the same time Senate investigators were preparing to contact him. The gun used to kill Giancana, found discarded on a roadside several miles from Giancana's house a month after the murder, was traced to a Miami gunshop, but the trail stopped there.

Investigators said the gun was part of a shipment purchased in 1965 by the Tamiami Gun Shop, but there are no records to indicate where it went from there, according to investigators and gunshop owners.

Rosselli, whose most powerful Mafia days were reportedly in the 1950s and early 1960s in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, did appear before the committee at least three times in the 12 months before his death.

In Washington, the committee has kept a tight clamp on comment about the investigation, and only one member, Robert T. Stafford (R., Vt.), acknowledged the Trafficante session, saying "I was not present when the witness you speak of was in front of the committee."

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D., Hawaii), the committee chairman who, along with Sen. Howard Baker (R., Tenn.) pressured for Justice Department and FBI involvement in the Rosselli murder case, said "I have never met Mr. Trafficante. That's as far as I'll go."

A PRIME interest of the committee has been possible links between

the CIA Castro plotting and the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Revelations of the Senate committee were a key factor in the creation of the new House of Representatives investigation, which is taking a new look at the JFK murder.

Trafficante reportedly has told investigators that he first met Rosselli about 1956. It was in the early 1950s that Florida law-enforcement officials estimated that a Bolivia operation run by Trafficante and his brother netted \$2 million annually.

Trafficante was a major gambling figure in pre-Castro Havana, where he ran a casino. In 1959, it was estimated that \$1 million or \$2 million was bet nightly in all the Mafia-run casinos in Havana. The gambling stopped when Castro took over in 1959.

Rosselli was the first of the three Mafia figures to be recruited by the CIA in 1960 in its plot to assassinate Castro.

IN A CIA memo quoted in an interim report of the committee a year ago, it was said that Trafficante's role was to "serve as a courier to Cuba and make arrangements there."

Rosselli told his CIA liaison that "Trafficante believed a certain leading figure in the Cuban exile movement might be able to accomplish the assassination." An internal CIA investigation in 1967 suggests that this Cuban may have been receiving funds from Trafficante and other racketeers interested in securing "gambling, prostitution and dope monopolies" in Cuba after the overthrow of Castro.

Roselli Probe

By RON LIBRECQUE

MIAMI SUN WRITER

Sen. Gary Hart (D., Colo.) made an unannounced trip to Miami Friday for a private meeting with homicide detectives to underscore the strong interest of the Senate Select Intelligence Committee in the John Roselli murder investigation and to insure that federal agencies cooperate with local police.

The FBI was ordered into the case last week by Attorney General Edward Levi after pressure from the Senate committee.

"We're not here to solve the crime," Hart said, "we want to find out if there is any connection between (Roselli's) death and his testimony before the Committee."

HART SAID he also hoped to meet with local officials of the FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Roselli, 71, organized crime figure who testified three times before the Senate Intelligence Committee in the past year about his recruitment by the CIA in a plot to kill Fidel Castro, was found dead two weeks ago, stuffed in an oil drum floating in Dumboedling Bay.

Hart made it clear that the Intelligence Committee is concerned about the possibility that Roselli's death is connected to his testimony, although he did say there was no "evidence" indicating Roselli might have been killed to prevent him from talking about other CIA-organized crime pacts.

"I know of no plans whatsoever to have him come back," Hart said, "but that's not to say we wouldn't have called him back if some new facts arose."

"But it would be reaching to say we had some indication he had (not yet testified about) evidence important to us," Hart said.

THE MURDER of Roselli, who last testified in April, renewed Intelligence Committee interest in the death of Chicago organized crime leader, Sam (Momo) Giancana. Giancana was shot to death in his home in June of 1975, just a short time when Intelligence Committee investigators were tracking him down.

Accompanying Hart Friday was Michael Madigan, a committee attorney who, in June of 1975, was preparing to interview Giancana about his involvement with Roselli in the Castro plot.

Giancana and Tampa organized crime figure Santo Trafficante played "accompanying roles" in the CIA-inspired Castro assassination plot, another committee staff member traveling with Hart said Friday.

The committee had also "considered" subpoenaing Trafficante, the staff investigator said, but Trafficante was never called because the committee considered Roselli's testimony the most important.

CHICAGO AREA investigators concluded that Giancana's death was part of an internal gangland struggle.

Nevertheless, Hart told The Herald Friday that with Roselli's death, "troubling questions" about Giancana's murder linger. "The coincidences begin to string themselves together," said the 1972 presidential campaign manager for George McGovern.

Asked if he was satisfied with the conclusions of investigators that Giancana's death was not connected to his potential testimony before the committee, Hart said "there is the absence of any corroborating evidence which prevents

Turn to Page 2B Col. 4

Visits Local Officials

FROM PAGE 1B

us from moving beyond speculation."

Madigan said the widespread reports after Glancana's death that his appearance before the committee was imminent were not true. That further indicates, he agreed, that Glancana's death was not directly related to his past CIA association.

"WE FINALLY got Glancana's home number the day he was killed," Madigan said Friday. "We had some difficulty tracking him down in Houston (where Glancana had been in the hospital). It had been decided that I was going to interview him to see whether it would be worth it to call him as a witness. He had not been contacted yet and he had not been subpoenaed," Madigan said.

Roselli, who had been subpoenaed, did testify for the first time four days after Glancana was shot.

That committee was headed by Sen. Frank Church and has since been replaced by a newly formed committee headed by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D., Hawaii) and Sen. Howard Baker (R., Tenn.). In its final report, that former committee strongly urged the new committee to continue the investigation of covert CIA activity as well as connections between the Castro assassination plot and the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

HART SAID FRIDAY there are still unanswered questions about Lee Harvey Oswald's motive, particularly relating to the so-called "retaliation theory" — that Castro or pro-Castro agents had JFK killed because of the CIA attempts on Castro's life.

Hart interviewed Roselli twice as a member of the former committee and he is also a member of the new Intelligence Committee.

"Roselli was very candid but he did not volunteer information," Hart said.

Committee investigators said Friday they have found no link between Roselli and Eugene M. Carrara, a Rockville, Md., antique auto dealer with reported organized crime connections who died under circumstances mysteriously coincidental to Roselli's death.

Carrara, 37, was reported missing by his wife on July 28, the same day Roselli was last seen by his sister in Plantation with whom he had lived for three years.

Carrara's body floated to the surface of New York Harbor off Staten Island on Aug. 4, his body wrapped in a padlocked chain and weighted by two 15-pound boat anchors. Police said he had been strangled. Roselli had been asphyxiated, possibly by strangling, according to investigators here.

New York City detectives said that Carrara "knew Glancana" but they have not been able to pin down a motive in his death.

The Washington Star, quoting an unidentified FBI source, reported that Carrara had met with Roselli in Chicago about two months ago.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Rick Inderfurth
From: Mike Madigan
Date: August 13, 1976
Re: Miami Interviews

I spoke with Senator Hart today about setting up interviews in Miami for Friday, August 20, in the Rosselli matter. He will be calling you about these arrangements.

I will try to have a subpoena for Santos Trafficante signed by Senator Baker before he leaves for the convention. We, however must obtain the approval of all or a majority of the members of the Committee (under the Rules) to issue the subpoena. Therefore, I have asked Martha to poll members on two questions:

(1) Authority to issue a subpoena for Trafficante;

(2) Authority for Senator Hart to disclose to the Miami police investigators in the Rosselli case those portions of the classified Rosselli related transcripts which he deems relevant to the murder investigation.

In case we miss connections, the relevant people involved are:

(1) Bill Lynch -- head of the Justice Organized Crime Section, telephone number 739-3516 (he should help us locate Trafficante and perhaps have a

suggestion as to how best to serve him with a subpoena);

(2) Detectives Wolf and Zatrepallek -- Dade County Sheriff's Office, telephone number 305-547-7456 (they are the detectives investigating the Rosselli murder for the locals). (I have been putting them off about whether they can have access to the transcripts -- you need to talk to Bill Miller and Gary about this);

(3) Paul Daly -- you may have to go through him if we need the FBI to locate Trafficante.

By the time you return I will have taken preparatory steps to set up interviews with the Miami police people as well as begun an effort to locate Trafficante. After talking with Gary you will need to follow up and confirm all these next week as I will be in Kansas City from Monday through Thursday. I will be flying from Kansas City to Miami on Thursday night for the interviews on Friday. You can reach me through the numbers that either Bill Miller or Marie has. We need to talk at some point next week to confirm all this.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Michael Madigan

August 13, 1976

I recently discussed with Agent Richard Taylor of the Federal Bureau of Investigation my recollections of pre-testimony interviews with Mr. John Rosselli prior to Rosselli's testifying under oath in June of 1975. It is my recollection that there were several meetings between myself, as counsel for the Committee, and Rosselli and his attorneys. Rosselli and his attorneys expressed on numerous occasions fear for the well-being of Rosselli. They insisted and the Committee agreed that I would conduct interviews prior to the sworn testimony at a location away from the Senate so as to avoid any publicity. During these interviews Rosselli, on more than one occasion, stated that he was taking a great risk in testifying. He was worried about retaliation and particularly worried about his relatives with whom he was living in Florida. I cannot recall Rosselli specifying exactly who he was most afraid of, but he declined to testify about Giancana (until after Giancana's death), refused to identify any of the Cubans who were involved in assassination plots, and was reluctant to mention Santos Trafficante by name. In fact, I cannot recall Rosselli ever mentioning Trafficante by name and only very vaguely responding to questions if the questioner used the name Trafficante.

It is my recollection that on at least one occasion, in the presence of Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., Rosselli told the Senator that he, Rosselli, was concerned for his safety and his life and that he was risking his well-being by testifying before the Committee. I am uncertain in my recollection as to whether that conversation took place up in the Senate interview room or elsewhere.

Throughout his testimony Rosselli declined to give his exact address in Florida for reasons of safety. It is also my recollection that Rosselli's demeanor was visibly affected whenever testimony or interview focused or attempted to focus on Santos Trafficante.

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- (1) Bill Lynch -- head of the Justice Organized Crime Section, telephone number 739-3516 (he should help us locate Trafficante and perhaps have a

suggestion as to how best to serve him with a subpoena);

(2) Detectives Wolf and Zatrepallek -- Dade County Sheriff's Office, telephone number 305-547-7456 (they are the detectives investigating the Rosselli murder for the locals). (I have been putting them off about whether they can have access to the transcripts -- you need to talk to Bill Miller and Gary about this);

(3) Paul Daly -- you may have to go through him if we need the FBI to locate Trafficante.

By the time you return I will have taken preparatory steps to set up interviews with the Miami police people as well as begun an effort to locate Trafficante. After talking with Gary you will need to follow up and confirm all these next week as I will be in Kansas City from Monday through Thursday. I will be flying from Kansas City to Miami on Thursday night for the interviews on Friday. You can reach me through the numbers that either Bill Miller or Marie has. We need to talk at some point next week to confirm all this.

Rosselli's Body Found in Floating Drum

LARRY ROSS
 (AP) — The body of a man, a key figure with the Chicago mobster Sam Rosselli, was found in a floating drum in Biscayne Bay, Miami. County officials said the body had been decomposed. Rosselli, 70, chief doctor examiner would not say if Rosselli died before or after his body was stuffed into the drum.

The body was found in a floating drum in Biscayne Bay, Miami. County officials said the body had been decomposed. Rosselli, 70, chief doctor examiner would not say if Rosselli died before or after his body was stuffed into the drum.

Wright said Rosselli, 70, had probably been dead since July 1, the day he reportedly left his home in nearby Dade County to play golf. He said Rosselli's killers tried to keep the disappearance quiet.

Rosselli testified last year before the Senate Intelligence Committee that he and Giancana had been recruited in 1961 by the CIA on the plot of a plot to assassinate Castro.

Rosselli testified last year before the Senate Intelligence Committee that he and Giancana had been recruited in 1961 by the CIA on the plot of a plot to assassinate Castro.

Giancana was also supposed to be paid \$100,000. According to the Senate report on the scheme, Rosselli was the contact man between Giancana and Cuban dissidents who were to carry out the assassination.

THE ACTUAL contact man for the CIA operation turned out to be Robert Mahen, one-time top aide to the late industrialist Howard Hughes, who served as a liaison between the CIA and the mobsters. Mahen, who has partially acknowledged his role in the affair, had split with Hughes long before the latter's death earlier this year.

Rosselli and Mahen were also reported to have been linked with Judith Campbell Exner, who said last year she had "a relationship" with the late President John F. Kennedy. The names of Rosselli and Exner were also in FBI records.

Exner turned over \$100,000 in cash to Rosselli. She said she was working for him at the time.

In the interim, Rosselli's Washington attorney, Tom Wadden, became concerned about his client's life and contacted Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. in an effort to secure more investigation of the case.

Baker was a member of the committee before which Rosselli testified.

Wadden told Baker he felt certain Rosselli had met with some people. He said he had seen a photograph of Rosselli and a man who was with him at the time.

IN TURN, according to what Wadden told reporters, Baker telephoned Committee Chairman Daniel Moynihan, D-Rhode Island, and FBI Director Clarence

Baker and urged that Rosselli's disappearance be investigated.

Baker could not be reached for comment last night on the conversation with the attorney.

Two fishermen found the drum floating in Dumbfounding Bay, an arm of Biscayne Bay between North Miami and Miami Beach. Police said the fishermen, not publicly identified, called them after they spotted human limbs through the holes chopped in the barrel.

Authorities said that because of the currents, it was not known where the drum was thrown in the bay.

WADDEN SAID the holes had been chopped in the barrel to make it sink and chains had been strung around it to weight it down. Given formed by the decomposition and decay of the body, he said, the barrel had brought it to the surface.

"It's quite possible that additional weights had been put on the barrel and the barrel would have sunk," Wadden said. "That would explain how it came up."

In Washington, the Senate Intelligence Committee, said yesterday that it would be premature to decide on a congressional investigation until more facts of the killing are known.

"As soon as we have more of the facts available, I will see how we are presented to the committee and I will keep them in touch whether to investigate," he said.

ROSSELLI WAS reported missing by his sister, with whom he had recently been living in Plantation, north of Miami. She said she last saw him when he left home to play golf. She was found a few days later at Miami International Airport, still high on drugs.

County detectives would not say if Rosselli was a Cuban agent. They were trying to work this thing from a point of view of the CIA and the mob.

But Rosselli was in Miami and in Washington said the agency would not become involved in the investigation of the killing.

Rosselli was a lifelong associate of Giancana, who became the boss of the Chicago mob in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

Rosselli was sent to Las Vegas, Nev., in the 1950s to handle the mob's interests there but stayed under the control of the Chicago organization.

HE WENT to Los Angeles in the early 1960s and was based

there when Castro was in Cuba, making the mob's money for the CIA. He was a key figure in the CIA's efforts to overthrow Castro.

WADDEN SAID the plot was aimed to coincide with the April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion and was "always subject to a 'go' signal which, to my knowledge, never came."

Rosselli told the Senate committee that he made several trips to Cuba in high-powered boats furnished by the CIA. He said the scheme included various plans to try to kill Castro by sniper fire, explosives and poison capsules.

Washington sources said last year that the CIA offered as much as \$100,000 for the job. Rosselli told the Senate panel that he turned any payment down for political reasons, the sources said.

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*Immeasurable
 8/4/76*

6 Attempts to Kill Castro Laid to CIA

By Jack Anderson

Locked in the darkest recesses of the Central Intelligence Agency is the story of six assassination attempts against Cuba's Fidel Castro.

For 10 years, only a few key people have known the terrible secret. They have sworn never to talk. Yet we have learned the details from sources whose credentials are beyond question.

We spoke to John McCone, who headed the CIA at the time of the assassination attempts. He acknowledged the idea had been discussed inside the CIA but insisted it had been "rejected immediately." He vigorously denied that the CIA had ever participated in any plot on Castro's life. Asked whether the attempts could have been made with his knowledge, he replied: "It could not have happened."

We have complete confidence, however, in our sources.

The plot to knock off Castro began as part of the Bay of Pigs operation. The intent was to eliminate the Cuban dicta-

tor before the motley invaders landed on the island. Their arrival was expected to touch off a general uprising, which the Communist militia would have had more trouble putting down without the charismatic Castro to lead them.

After the first attempt failed, five more assassination teams were sent to Cuba. The last team reportedly made it to a rooftop within shooting distance of Castro before they were apprehended. This happened around the last of February or first of March, 1963.

Nine months later, President Kennedy was gunned down in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald, a fanatic who previously had agitated for Castro in New Orleans and had made a mysterious trip to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City.

Among those privy to the CIA conspiracy, there is still a nagging suspicion—unsupported by the Warren Commission's findings—that Castro became aware of the U.S. plot upon his life and somehow recruited Oswald to retal-

iate against President Kennedy.

To set up the Castro assassination, the CIA enlisted Robert Maheu, a former FBI agent with shadowy contacts, who had handled other undercover assignments for the CIA out of his Washington public relations office. He later moved to Las Vegas to head up billionaire Howard Hughes' Nevada operations.

Maheu recruited John Roselli, a ruggedly handsome gambler with contacts in both the American and Cuban underworlds, to arrange the assassination. The dapper, hawk-faced Roselli, formerly married to movie actress June Lang, was a power in the movie industry until his conviction with racketeer Willie Bioff in a million-dollar Hollywood labor shakedown. The CIA assigned two of its most trusted operatives, William Harvey and James (Big Jim) O'Connell, to the hush-hush murder mission. Using phony names, they accompanied Roselli on trips to Miami to line up the assassination teams.

The full story reads like the script of a James Bond movie,

complete with secret trysts at glittering Miami Beach hotels and midnight powerboat dashes to secret landing spots on the Cuban coast. Once, Roselli's boat was shot out from under him.

For the first try, the CIA furnished Roselli with special poison capsules to slip into Castro's food. The poison was supposed to take three days to act. By the time Castro died, his system would throw off all traces of the poison, so he would appear to be the victim of a natural if mysterious ailment.

Roselli arranged with a Cuban, related to one of Castro's chefs, to plant the deadly pellets in the dictator's food. On March 13, 1961, Roselli delivered the capsules to his contact at Miami Beach's glamorous Fontainebleau Hotel.

A couple of weeks later, just about the right time for the plot to have been carried out, a report out of Havana said Castro was ill. But he recovered before the Bay of Pigs invasion on April 17, 1961.

Four more attempts were made on Castro's life.

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Castro Stalker Worked for the CIA

By Jack Anderson

The mystery man whom the Central Intelligence Agency recruited to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Castro has been laid up in the sick ward of the Los Angeles County jail.

He is handsome, hawk-faced John Roselli, once a dashing figure around Hollywood and Las Vegas, now a gray, 66-year-old inmate with a respiratory ailment.

Confidential FBI files identify him as "a top Mafia figure" who watched over "the concealed interests in Las Vegas casinos of the Chicago underworld."

Roselli has admitted to friends that he was a rum runner during the Roaring Twenties. Operating along the East Coast, he learned how to evade Coast Guard cutters and police patrols.

His name later became linked with the biggest names in the Chicago and Los Angeles underworlds. He also developed contacts in the Cuban underworld before Castro took over the Havana gambling casinos.

He had the right background for a hush-hush mission that the CIA was planning in 1961. As part of the Bay of Pigs invasion, the CIA hoped to knock off Castro and leave Cuba leaderless.

Risks Neck

Roselli was recruited for the

job by Robert Mahon, a former FBI agent, who admitted to us that he had handled undercover assignments for the CIA. He refused, however, to discuss the details. This is the same Mahon, incidentally, who is now involved in a legal battle over phantom billionaire Howard Hughes' Nevada operations.

Roselli was so flattered over being asked to perform a secret mission for the U.S. government that he paid all his expenses out of his own pocket and risked his neck to land the assassination team on the Cuban coast.

In James Bond fashion, he held whispered meetings in Miami Beach hotels with Cubans willing to make an attempt on Castro's life. Once, he called on Chicago racket boss Sam Giancana to line up a contact. The confidential files report that Giancana had "gambling interest and an interest in the shrimp business in Cuba." However, the Chicago gangster took no direct part in the assassination plot.

Roselli made midnight dashes to Cuba with his hired assassins in twin powerboats. Once a Cuban patrol ship turned its guns on his darkened boat, tore a hole in the bottom and sank the boat. Roselli was fished out of the water by the other boat, which escaped into the shadows.

In earlier columns, we reported how the CIA furnished

Boselli with deadly poison capsules which he tried through a relative of Castro's chef to plant in the dictator's food. Later, marksmen armed with high-powered Belgian rifles attempted to infiltrate close enough to gun Castro down.

All told, six assassination attempts were made, the last in the spring of 1963. Throughout this period, Roselli worked under the direct supervision of two secret CIA agents, William Harvey and James (Big Jim) O'Connell.

Roselli's Reward

The FBI which got wind of the assassination plot, has tried to pump Roselli for information. But he was sworn to silence by the CIA, and up to this moment, he hasn't broken it.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department, as part of its crack-down on organized crime, tried to nail Roselli. The FBI discovered that his Chicago birth records had been forged, that his name was really Filippino Sacco and that he had come to this country from Italy as a child. He was convicted for failing to register as an alien.

He was also convicted for conspiracy to rig card games at Los Angeles' exclusive Friar's Club.

Of Roselli's two CIA associates, Harvey has now retired to Indianapolis and O'Connell

is still on the CIA payroll. Both admitted to us a friendship with Roselli but refused to discuss their CIA activities. Harvey said he had a "high regard" for Roselli and called the Friar's Club case a "crap." Said Harvey: "The Friar's Club indictment is phony. Roselli had no more to do with that than I had."

Roselli's lawyers are now trying to get clearance from their client, citing our stories about his secret CIA service.

Firearms Fiasco

Under pressure from the firearms lobby, the Treasury Department has failed to enforce a vital section of the 1968 federal firearms act.

The law was passed after the murders of Sen. Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. It authorizes the Treasury Secretary to require full reports of all firearms and ammunition sales.

For the two years that the law has been in force, the Treasury Department has ignored this key provision. The gun industry has complained it would be a bookkeeping nightmare.

The federal government, which would have to compile all the sales data, has been reluctant to spend \$100 million it would need for computers and staff to maintain the firearms files.

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1975 Jack Anderson Interview Release

Four and a half years ago, I broke a story that now is belatedly rocking Washington. I reported that the Central Intelligence Agency had recruited two Mafia figures, John Roselli and Sam Giancana, to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

I tracked down Roselli and questioned him about the story. He had nothing to say. He promised me, however, that he would give me his exclusive story if he should ever be free to talk.

Yesterday, John Roselli told his story -- first, to the Senate Intelligence Committee in secret session, then to me as he had promised four and a half years ago.

Roselli is a dapper, hawk-faced man with a thatch of white hair. He has been disciplined all his life to keep his mouth shut. His Mafia partner, Sam Giancana, was slain before Senate investigators could serve him with a subpoena.

So it was obviously painful for Roselli to talk. I promised I would make clear that he revealed no names, except for the CIA contacts whose identities the Senate already knew.

So here is Roselli's own account of a real-life "Mission Impossible" -- the attempt to kill Castro. It is a story of cash payments, poison pellets, high-powered rifles and powerboat dashes to Cuba.

The plot against Castro, Roselli said, began in 1960 -- when Dwight Eisenhower was President, Richard Nixon was Vice President and Allen Dulles was the CIA chief.

Roselli was recruited in Los Angeles, he said, by Robert Maheu, then an aide to billionaire Howard Hughes. Previously, Maheu had operated a CIA

front in Washington.

According to Roselli, the murdered mobster, Sam Giancana, never became involved in the assassination plot. He knew about it; he may even have suggested a Cuban contact; nothing more.

Roselli identified the CIA project officer, in charge of the Castro assassination, as "Big Jim" O'Connell. Maheu put Roselli in contact with O'Connell, as Roselli remembers it, in New York City on September 14, 1960.

Thereafter, Roselli flew to Miami and recruited the assassination squads. At first, they plotted to poison Castro. Poison pellets were supplied by the CIA. They were delivered to the plotters in a Miami hotel room, according to Roselli, by Maheu. He dramatically opened his briefcase, revealing \$10,000 in cash and the fatal pellets.

The money was distributed to the Cuban plotters. Roselli swore he never took any money from the CIA, except for some incidental expenses. He paid the big expenses, he said, out of his own pocket.

The poison pills were supposed to take three days to work. Supposedly, this would give the poison time to work its way out of Castro's system before he died, and his death would be attributed to natural causes.

Roselli never found out what happened to the plotters or the pellets. But they tried again later with a stronger dose of poison. Not long afterward, reports reached them that Castro was desperately ill. Roselli doesn't know whether the illness was caused by the poison or a virus. But Castro survived, and the plotters apparently did not.

Toselli said he also picked up intelligence, which he submitted to the CIA both during the Bay of Pigs planning and the later Cuban missile crisis. After the Bay of Pigs, Roselli said, Maheu was cut out of the plot. Thereafter,

Roselli reported to a CIA agent named William Harvey.

There were four more assassination attempts, the plotters were smuggled into Cuba with high-powered rifles. The last assassination squad, Roselli heard, made it to a Havana rooftop before they were caught.

This was around March 1, 1963. Then the project was abandoned. Roselli saw Harvey for the last time in June, 1963. Five months later, Lee Harvey Oswald gunned down President Kennedy in Dallas. Oswald had been active in the pro-Castro movement. Shortly before that dreadful day in Dallas, Oswald had made a mysterious trip to Mexico where he visited the Cuban embassy. The Warren Commission found no evidence, however, that Oswald was in the hire of Havana.

Yesterday, Roselli made no apology for his CIA role. U.S. authorities call him a mobster. He regards himself as a patriot.

Roselli file



The Calculated Rise And Abrupt Descent Of Johnny Roselli

By Rudy Maxa

Until last month, Johnny Roselli lived comfortably with his sister and brother-in-law in a Miami suburb. A friend estimated he earned about \$25,000 annually from a gift shop he owned in the lobby of Las Vegas' Frontier Hotel.

He shrugged last year when his attorney suggested he hire a bodyguard, after the murder of Chicago mobster Sam Giancana, his partner in CIA plots to kill Fidel Castro. If anybody wants to kill me at my age, the 71-year-old Roselli said, what difference does it make? So he played golf several times a week, sipped white wine with dinner, and—until somebody decided Johnny Roselli should wind up in an oil barrel in Miami's Dumbofounding Bay—considered employment in the new gambling casinos beginning to open in the oil-rich Middle East.

In the late 1920s Al Capone and his friends chose Miami as the chic spot for organized crime figures to buy a winter home. Just across a strip of ocean was Cuba, a gambling and vice mecca. The mobsters from the north were treated like visiting celebrities by Florida press and society, while some members of the local police force began developing a taste for the finer things in life.

In the 1940s the sheriff of Dade County (which includes most of the Miami area) admitted to the Kefauver organized crime committee that, since he had become sheriff on an annual salary of \$12,000 five years earlier, his personal fortune had increased from \$2,500 to \$70,000. One of the sheriff's deputies said he collected \$50,000 in bribes in nine months spent as a bagman for Miami Beach gambling concessions. In 1948 a bookmaker's operation in Miami grossed \$26 million. It was the kind of place that made a racketeer feel at home.

For the last two years, Johnny Roselli felt at home in Plantation, a bedroom suburb north of Miami that Roselli made his retirement haven because he had family there. His brother-in-law, a government missile expert,

lives in a sprawling white home that at first glance, resembles every other house in the neighborhood.

But it is different: the carefully curtained windows, the extra lock on the front door, and spotlights on all side of the house give it the look of a suburban fortress. Inside, the furniture is pale blue Mediterranean, the carpet is thick white.

Roselli's killers did not ambush the house; Roselli went to them. He left Plantation at 1 p.m. on July 28 wearing a golf shirt, his golf clubs in his car trunk. He told his sister he would be home for dinner. That afternoon or evening he was killed, probably by suffocation, perhaps after being tortured—early reports said his legs were broken. Heavily chained, Roselli was stuffed in a 55-gallon oil drum and dumped into the ocean.

His brother-in-law found Roselli's silver-colored 1975 Chevrolet Impala several days later, parked at the Miami International Airport.

Ten days after Roselli's disappearance something went wrong. The oil drum that was meant to keep his death a secret floated to the surface of Dumbofounding Bay, buoyed by the gases of Roselli's decaying body.

The holes in the side of the drum and the placing of his Chevrolet at the airport convinced investigators his corpse was meant never to be discovered; history was supposed to record that dapper Johnny Roselli, facing deportation proceedings that the government had threatened off and on for years, decided to disappear on an airplane flight to who-knows-where.

"Cutting up and disposing of bodies is not necessarily new to our department," says the man who is directing the search for Roselli's killers. Lt. Gammann, head of the Dade County homicide squad, is a well-muscled man with an aquiline nose that separates a pair of hard blue eyes. On the pale green wall of his bare office is a sign that reads "DYNAMITE—DON SHAKE ME UP."

He and another police officer recount the solving of some of Dade County's more brutal murders with

See ROSELLI, L4, Col. 1

ROSELLI, From L1

the enthusiasm of two football players recalling their favorite bowl games. The headless, handless body that floated into a Miami canal last month reminded Minnium of that other, similarly mutilated body that turned up last December. And who can forget the man who got angry with his roommate, sliced him up and tossed the parts along a highway?

As it turned out, Roselli's wasn't the first body to float into the annals of Miami crime in a drum, Minnium says. Ten years ago a lovers' quarrel resulted in a man stuffing his girl friend into a drum, filling it with cement and Aqua Velva shave lotion. The drum

was found resting against a dike and justice was eventually done.

Minnium is not pleased by such violent antics.

"We don't appreciate people committing murder and dumping a body in our county, regardless of who the people are, but especially if it's organized crime," Minnium says.

His department handled 168 homicides last year and boasted an 85 per cent "clearance record." As of July, 1976, the percentage was even higher, standing at about 92 per cent.

If Charles Zatrepaek and Jullo Ojeda have anything to say about it, Roselli's killing is not going to diminish those percentages. Both men are 28-year-old homicide detectives who

vow with a schoolboy's sincerity that they won't rest until Roselli's murder is solved. In the last four weeks, with the help of Washington agencies, Zatrepaek and Ojeda have reconstructed Roselli's life in hopes of understanding his death. For the third time in eight years of marriage, Zatrepaek worked out of town on his wedding anniversary; because of the "awesomeness" of this case, Ojeda spent his Labor Day holiday at work.

"Maybe 10 years from now," Ojeda says, "I want someone to look at my file and say, 'Hey, he talked to everybody.' And maybe he'll hear something and BANG! that's the arrest!"

That Johnny Roselli was destined to walk on the dark side of life never seemed in doubt. As a teen-ager in Boston, when his name was Filippo Sacco, Roselli was a runner for the numbers racket. He helped his stepfather burn down his home for the insurance money. He was arrested at age 22 for stealing about \$25 from someone. Then he changed his name and left for Chicago.

It would be 40 years until, in the late 1960s, Johnny Roselli would see his mother again, though he sent money to his family through an intermediary in Chicago so his sisters could attend college.

By the late 1920s Al Capone was well established in Chicago. Newspapermen, politicians and cops were on the Capone payroll and a young man with Roselli's street savvy had little trouble finding suitable employment; he hired on as a rumrunner with the Capone gang. At age 26 Roselli was arrested for selling morphine to an undercover agent. He was acquitted because, after Roselli's arrest, no one could seem to find the arresting officer or informant in the case. They still haven't been found.

In the mid-1930s Roselli, by now a mature and charming man, lucky with

after a
work-a-day,
a velvety
junior jump! \$58

A be-devilling shimmer-glimmer
you, set for champagne or a great
beat! One-piece cotton velveteen, ready
to layer black or brown, 5-13. Come in,
write or phone.



(3)

"In the 1940s the sheriff of Dade County (which includes most of the Miami area) admitted to the Kefauver organized crime committee that, since he had become sheriff on an annual salary of \$12,000 five years earlier, his personal fortune had increased from \$2,500 to \$70,000."

women, friendly with men of money, moved to Los Angeles. He wore hand-tailored suits and, by all accounts, was easygoing, mild-mannered. He was married for a time to an actress, but they had no children. He became a close friend of Harry Cohn, the legendary head of Columbia Pictures. The two men sometimes vacationed together and Roselli always seemed to know how to place a bet should Cohn care to wager on a horse.

According to Bob Thomas' biography of Cohn, "King Cohn," the movie mogul once offered Roselli a job as a producer. (In his book, Thomas disguised Roselli's identity at Roselli's request.)

"What would you pay me?" Roselli asked Cohn.

"Five hundred dollars a week," Cohn said.

"I get that much from waitresses who take bets for me," Roselli is said to have replied.

Besides being a handy man with the placing of bets, Roselli purchased a 26 per cent interest in a Tijuana race-track with \$25,000 Cohn loaned him. Roselli paid him back promptly and in-

cluded a check for 6 per cent interest; Cohn magnanimously tore up the interest check.

Roselli bought twin star rubies, had them set in rings and gave one to Cohn, who considered it a good luck charm until his death. Once, when Chicago mobster Willie Bioff moved to Hollywood and began making life miserable for movie studios by shaking down executives in return for labor peace, Roselli stepped in and saved Cohn from a lengthy strike.

When Cohn refused to pay tribute to Bioff and his union, Bioff tried to halt production at Columbia by calling a sudden strike. Desperate, Cohn called Roselli who marched into Bioff's office and confronted the hoodlum who sat behind his desk wearing a hat and coat, chomping on a cigar, a gun resting on the desk in front of him.

"Listen, Willie, I don't know what you're trying to prove but it isn't going to work," Roselli told him. "This is a spite thing and you're not going to get away with it. You meet with Cohn and get it settled."

Bioff backed down and called off his pickets. After he was sent to jail for ex-

tortion, Bioff cut a deal with the government and named Roselli as a Chicago mobster who had helped him shake down movie studios. Cohn testified on Roselli's behalf, but in 1943 Roselli was sentenced to 10 years in prison. When he got out he returned to Hollywood to make pictures of prison and gangster life. But publicity about a secret appearance before the Kefauver crime committee ruined his relationship with most studios. Even Cohn refused to hire him—"The stockholders would scalp me," Cohn told a bitter Roselli.

It was during his years in the Los Angeles and Las Vegas areas that Roselli met the man who would make him a household name later in life. Robert Maheu, the ex-FBI agent who parlayed a Washington private eye business into a stormy career as Howard Hughes' man in Las Vegas, approached Roselli on behalf of the CIA in 1960.

(Another person Roselli met in that era who would later surface to talk of Roselli, Giancana and John F. Kennedy was a young party girl named Judith Campbell.)

Maheu and Roselli would later tell Frank Church's Senate Intelligence Committee the details of their plots to kill Castro. Maheu told investigators he had known Roselli since the late 1950s and, while he didn't know of his underworld connections, "it was certainly evident to me that (Roselli) was able to accomplish things in Las Vegas when nobody else seemed to get the same kind of attention."

Over dinner at the Brown Derby in Beverly Hills 16 years ago, Maheu explained to Roselli that his government needed his services. Roselli, who was born on July 4, 1905, was nothing if not patriotic. (Sam Giancana once said, "Just wave a flag and Johnny'll follow you to any canal.") Maheu recalled that

See ROSELLI, L5, Col. 1

Roselli was hesitant at first but "felt he had an obligation to his government, and he finally agreed to participate" in a plan to kill Fidel Castro. He turned down an offer of \$150,000 and even paid for his own hotel rooms in Miami. He later introduced Maheu to two co-conspirators, Giancana and Santos. Trafficante, an alleged Mafia figure who operated out of Tampa.

While the strange alliance between the CIA and organized crime plotted to kill Castro, Maheu was doing someone a favor that would almost derail the project. Church's investigators learned that the CIA paid for, and Maheu arranged for, a bug to be installed in Giancana's Las Vegas apartment. Parties to the incident today offer two reasons for the placement of that bug.

One explanation was that Giancana suspected his girlfriend had another lover and Maheu agreed to place the tap to ease Giancana's worries while he stayed at work in Miami. The other theory is that the CIA was worried because the agency had heard Giancana was talking loosely about the Castro plots.

Whatever the explanation, the placement of the bug was a disaster. Maheu's private eye left the tap unattended on the afternoon of Oct. 31, 1960, and it was discovered by a maid who reported it to the local sheriff. Roselli paid the private detective's bail and eventually the attorney general, acting under pressure from the CIA, ordered that any contemplated prosecution be dropped because it could jeopardize the national security operation in which Giancana and Maheu were involved. A friend said when Giancana learned of the snafu, he laughed so hard he almost swallowed his cigar.

Today the Boom Boom Room of the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach seems a tame place. Five college-age thespians star in a tepid humor revue. The drinks are weak but expensive. A sign in the window of a children's clothing boutique next to the Boom Boom Room is cloying: "Grandma, Grandpa, what did you bring me?"

But in 1961 the Boom Boom Room was a swinger's paradise, the place where big money went to talk big deals. In March of 1961, the night following Floyd Patterson's knockout of Ingemar Johansson in a Miami Beach ring, Giancana, Roselli, Maheu and a friend relaxed in the dimly lit nightclub. They were waiting for a man who was supposed to be Castro's chef. His assignment: to slip a slow-acting, untraceable poison into Castro's drink.

"As we left the lounge," recalls the friend who was with the trio, "we saw this guy—small, Cuban, with reddish hair. He was as conspicuous as a blueberry in a bowl of milk. He just didn't belong in that hotel. We said, 'Clear out, let Johnny meet him.' Sam looked at the guy and said, 'My God, I wouldn't trust him.' Then the pass was made."

Giancana's instinct was correct. To-

"In the late 1920s Al chose Miami as the chic s figures to buy a winter h of ocean was Cuba, a gan

day Castro is eating well in Cuba while Giancana died from five gunshot wounds to the head as he prepared a midnight snack of sausages June 19, 1975.

History has tended to make the men behind the plots to kill Castro look foolish and, indeed, some of the plans seem as silly as exploding cigars.

Psychological warfare expert Gen. Edward Lansdale, for example, hit upon a plan to convince the Cuban population that the Second Coming of Christ was imminent and that Christ hated Castro. Word was to have been spread throughout Cuba that on a particular date a manifestation of Christ's return would occur. On that date an American submarine would surface off the Cuban coast and ignite starshells which would lead the Cuban populace to overthrow Castro. A member of the intelligence community sarcastically tagged Lansdale's bizarre plan "Elimination by Illumination."

(Asked about that plan recently, Lansdale replied, "That's a crock. Maybe someone was interpreting things that way. I don't know where they got such an idea.")

After the flurry of plots in 1960 and 1961, a CIA employee named William Harvey was assigned to oversee the "disabling" of foreign leaders. He contacted Roselli but this time asked that Maheu and Giancana be kept out of their discussions. Roselli gave the assassination business another try with Harvey supplying poison pills, weapons and communication equipment to Cubans who were supposed to kill not only Castro but also his brother and another revolutionary upstart named Che Guevara. Again, no luck, but Roselli and Harvey struck up a friendship that lasted until Harvey, who retired from the CIA to practice law in Indianapolis, died of a heart attack recently.

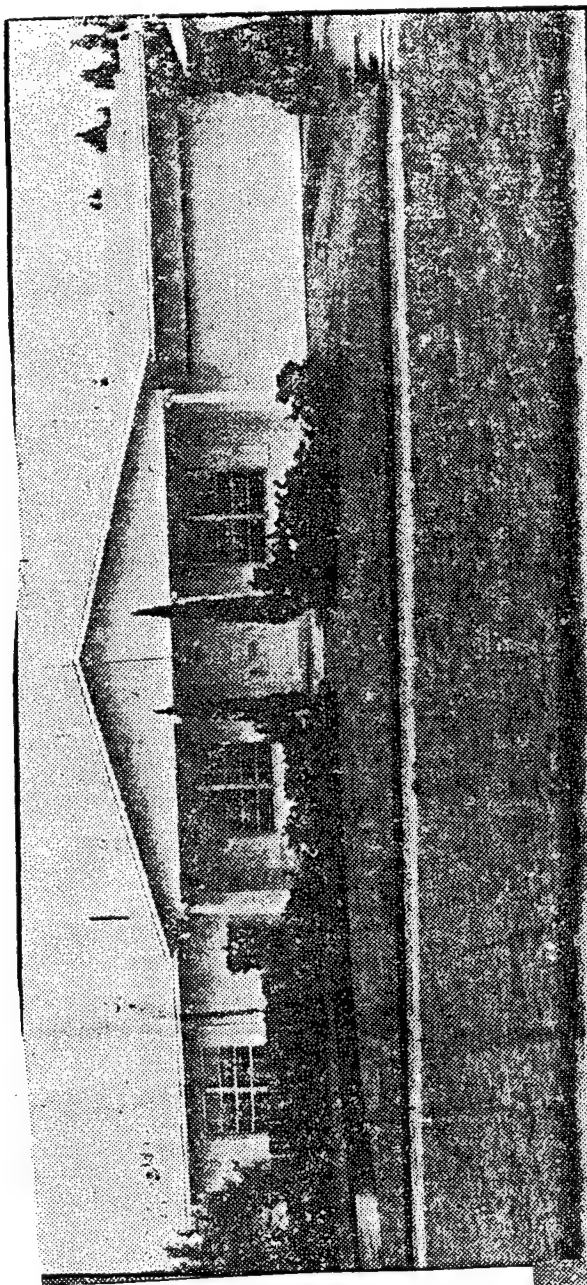
In 1966 the FBI threatened to deport Roselli unless he helped them by informing against the Mafia. Roselli's original CIA contact, Sheffield Edwards, told the FBI that Roselli "wanted to keep square with the bureau" but was afraid he'd be killed for "talking." Later that year Roselli was arrested for his involvement in a Los Angeles gambling scheme in which a peephole allegedly was used to survey a card table at the Friar's Club; electronic impulses then tipped players to their opponents' hands. Roselli ap-



(5)

Johnny Roselli
1975; upper rig
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Fidel Castro in
Sam Giancana in
President John
Kennedy in
Dade County Pol
Lt. Gary Minni
and the Flori
home where Ros
lived before
death.

Photos by The Washington Post
The Chicago Daily News, AP, U



"forestall public disclosure of Roselli's past operational activity with the CIA" that might occur if deportation proceedings were pursued. The INS agreed to keep the CIA informed, but at his death, Roselli and his lawyers were still fighting deportation.

"Bob Maheu must be running scared—I thought about that just the other day: 'Jesus, what's Maheu thinking?'" said another of Roselli's brothers-in-law, Peter Cardillo of New Jersey.

The public doesn't know what Maheu is thinking, whether he worries if pro-Castro Cubans are exacting retribution for sins of 16 years ago. Maheu's secretary in Las Vegas says she doesn't know where her boss is or when he'll be returning to his office. He reportedly has some business interest in Egypt, a part of the world that seems to hold some fascination for the Castro plotters; Giancana kept an apartment in Beirut and, just before his death, told a friend he had some sort of deal

brewing there. And Roselli longingly eyed the opening of gambling casinos in the land of the new oil millionaires. In Tampa, Santos Trafficante, another of the original Maheu group, also refuses to talk with the press. But unlike the others, he did not testify before the Church committee so the public has no inkling of his thoughts on the Castro assassination attempts.

Whether Roselli's killing was one of retribution for a public or a private matter, Johnny Roselli was a testament to an era that has passed. His life, which would have remained largely unnoticed save for the Senate's CIA hearings, seemed straight from the pages of a Mafia novel: allegedly brought into the United States illegally at the turn of the century, Roselli clawed his way from the mean streets of Boston and Chicago to the relative glamor of Hollywood, Las Vegas and, finally, Miami. Along the way, a simple strain of patriotism—which impressed the CIA enough to mention it to the

Church committee—put him in a rope-dancer's position of sometimes receiving, sometimes taking advantage of his knowledge of the darkest side of government.

While some have speculated that he was killed for talking too much to government investigators, Roselli was hardly a loudmouth in the league of a Joe Valachi, who sang for televised Senate hearings on the Mafia in 1963. Fourteen years ago Roselli confided in his lawyer, Washington attorney Edward Morgan, that he had been told by Cuban sources in Miami that John Kennedy's killing was ordered and arranged by Castro, but he lived with his secret.

The day after Roselli's body was scooped from its crude coffin, his brother-in-law in New Jersey, Peter Cardillo, told me: "Down deep, in a way, I probably hope it was connected with (the Castro affair). At least then Johnny, he would have died for a cause."

pealed to Harvey for help and Harvey recommended to the CIA that it try to prevent prosecution, but Roselli was convicted of violating interstate gambling laws. He went to jail, returning in 1974 to Plantation to do battle against government efforts to deport him.

In 1971 the CIA asked the Immigration and Naturalization Service to

MEMORANDUM

To: Rick Inderfurth
From: Mike Madigan
Date: August 13, 1976
Re: Miami Interviews

I spoke with Senator Hart today about setting up interviews in Miami for Friday, August 20, in the Rosselli matter. He will be calling you about these arrangements.

I will try to have a subpoena for Santos Trafficante signed by Senator Baker before he leaves for the convention. We, however must obtain the approval of all or a majority of the members of the Committee (under the Rules) to issue the subpoena. Therefore, I have asked Martha to poll members on two questions:

(1) Authority to issue a subpoena for Trafficante;

(2) Authority for Senator Hart to disclose to the Miami police investigators in the Rosselli case those portions of the classified Rosselli related transcripts which he deems relevant to the murder investigation.

In case we miss connections, the relevant people involved are:

(1) Bill Lynch -- head of the Justice Organized Crime Section, telephone number 739-3516 (he should help us locate Trafficante and perhaps have a

suggestion as to how best to serve him with a subpoena);

(2) Detectives Wolf and Zatrepallek -- Dade County Sheriff's Office, telephone number 305-547-7456 (they are the detectives investigating the Rosselli murder for the locals). (I have been putting them off about whether they can have access to the transcripts -- you need to talk to Bill Miller and Gary about this);

(3) Paul Daly -- you may have to go through him if we need the FBI to locate Trafficante.

By the time you return I will have taken preparatory steps to set up interviews with the Miami police people as well as begun an effort to locate Trafficante. After talking with Gary you will need to follow up and confirm all these next week as I will be in Kansas City from Monday through Thursday. I will be flying from Kansas City to Miami on Thursday night for the interviews on Friday. You can reach me through the numbers that either Bill Miller or Marie has. We need to talk at some point next week to confirm all this.

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Who Killed John Roselli?

WE'RE GOING TO tell you a little story now. Once there was a President who was murdered. His brother was murdered too. A long time after they died some very strange facts came to light. It turned out that while they were running the government, the government was trying to get two Mafia mobsters to arrange the murder of someone else—the head of a small, hostile neighbor state. It also turned out that one brother—the one who was President—apparently had a girlfriend who was the girlfriend as well of the mobsters. And one of the mobsters, whose nickname was Momo, was prominent on the list of criminals the President's brother was trying to put in jail. The story may sound complicated, but life is complicated, and the complications in this case got even more so. For when a committee of the Congress wanted the two mobsters to come and tell them something about all this, only one of them—the one named Johnny—came. The other one, Momo, was murdered in his house a week before they wanted him to testify. Johnny, however, told his story to one committee in the Congress and then came back—quietly—to tell some more things to another committee which was in fact looking into the murder of the President. Then Johnny went to Florida. Then no one could find him. Then some fishermen found him. Dead. In an oil drum.

But we haven't told you the strangest part of all yet, the part you're really not going to believe. It is that when the great national political community of solons, scribes, policemen, spies and managers of the general wellbeing heard about poor Johnny, they said: "Oh, my goodness." Some of them went farther, of course. They said: "Fancy that!" But most of them didn't say anything at all except: "Yawn."

Forgive us for lapsing into storybookese. We do it for a reason which is that the simple unadorned facts of the John and Robert Kennedy-Fidel Castro-CIA-Mafia-Momo Giancana-Johnny Roselli-Judith Exner-Church Committee-Schweiker Committee saga need to be put forward in stark outline for their magnitude to be understood. Is it really, as the sophisticated wisdom goes, "paranoid" on our part to brood about the suggestive and possibly monstrous interconnections between all these facts and to wonder why they are not the object of intense press and government scrutiny? What accounts for the general indifference in high places? What accounts for the eagerness with which we all seem to accept that familiar tipoff that we shall be hearing no more about the latest crime—i.e., the pronouncement that Mr. Roselli's dispatch to an oil drum and Beyond had "all the earmarks of a gangland slaying." Those are the good old "earmarks" we only hear about when it is next to certain that we shall hear nothing more.

The supposition of course is that the Gang which runs gangland has its reasons and its methods and that, disagreeable as these may be, they really lie outside the proper realm of public concern because they

amount to a system of justice which 1) only affects those dumb enough to get involved in it in the first place and 2) tends only to punish those who have committed what the rest of us would regard as heinous crimes anyway. Not that these are things people say—they're things people can be expected to assume. But we think in this case the assumptions have even less validity than they would have on a clear day, which isn't much. And that is because if we know anything, we know that the Mafia operations in which Messers. Giancana and Roselli figured had become intertwined with the operations of the United States government. Never mind that the decisions of the early 1960s which made this so may rank among the most abominable decisions ever taken in the U.S. government. The plain fact is that, given the provocative and suggestive history of the two men, it is not possible for either Congress or the Executive Branch to look the other way or to complaisantly accept the earmarks-of-a-gangland-slaying bromide.

After Mr. Giancana was killed, the Church Committee inquired of the FBI whether its proposed meeting with him had figured in his murder. The FBI reported that it had no evidence to this effect. The then-director of the CIA, William Colby, felt obliged to state that the CIA had had nothing to do with the murder—and Mr. Colby likewise pronounced the other day that he was certain the CIA had not done in Mr. Roselli. The mere fact that the questions, to which these were meant to be the answers, had been raised tells us, anyway, that much more in the way of inquiry is wanted. The newly formed Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has now asked the Justice Department to make an investigation of Mr. Roselli's death. We think the Department should comply and that the investigation, despite FBI Director Clarence Kelley's disclaimer of jurisdiction, should have the Attorney General's personal attention. Such attention is needed because of the elaborate and not entirely reassuring history of relationships between the FBI and the CIA and the various participants in the whole sorry saga. We are not suggesting that any agency of government—or even any of those agency's fringe retainers—were the murderers. We are suggesting that there is an overlay of potentially embarrassing information sufficiently pervasive to keep an awful lot of people from wanting to have this thing aired. We also think that the Select Committee should reserve the right to pursue the matter. Congress, after all, can hardly be expected to sit idly by while its witnesses are being done in. Nor do we see how the public in general and the political establishment in particular can turn their attention away until we are all satisfied that a much greater effort has been made by the government—which means both the Executive Branch and the Congress—to discover what elements were at play in this series of appalling crimes and scandals.

The Data From M

D. R. HAROLD KLEIN one of the scientists work... and our best theories

ROSSELLI CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- 1955 Meets Maheu at insurance friend's home.
- 1960 Late July/early August. Maheu calls. Working for government. Recruit Rosselli only. Meet Brown Derby, L.A., for lunch. Long talk about project in Cuba. Rosselli wants verification.

2nd meeting, L.A., discuss further details, no discussion of specific techniques. Plan to meet in N.Y. for verification.

Sept. 14, 1960. First meeting in N.Y. at old Plaza Hotel. Rosselli introduced by Maheu to O'Connell. Rosselli "knew" O'Connell worked for the CIA. Rosselli agrees to work on Cuban project.

Sept. 25, 1960. Maheu and Rosselli travel to Miami to begin making contact with Cubans to be recruited for mission.

(Between Sept. 25 and the Bay of Pigs, a series of recruitments, meetings, and arrangements were made. The following is an outline of events that is not necessarily in chronological order.)

- Meeting where Maheu is introduced to Trafficant. Meeting where Maheu is introduced to Giancana. Giancana was, according to Rosselli, to only be a "back up man." Rosselli states Giancana had nothing to do with the actual operation. Trafficant was used, according to Rosselli, as a translator.
- Meeting with O'Connell, Maheu, Rosselli, and two Admirals to discuss the Cuban project.
- Rosselli, in his contact with the Cubans, "invents" the cover story that he represents some Wall Street business interests who want to see Castro eliminated. Rosselli trusts Cubans he has recruited because they are part of the Bay of Pigs operation.
- 1st attempt at assassination involved the use of pills. Maheu and Rosselli met with Cuban #1 and #2 (?). Maheu opened up his briefcase and gave the pills with instructions for their use to Cuban #1. Maheu also had \$10,000 he gave the Cubans for doing the project. Rosselli did not know of the money. Rosselli states he received no remuneration for his work on the project, in fact, he paid out \$800 for gas for a speed boat to deliver two or three man parties for guerrilla raids into Cuba.
- Prior to Bay of Pigs there was no discussion of using guns to assassinate Castro.
- Rosselli's cover name was "John Ralston."

- At different times, Cuban #1, #2, or #3 would propose different projects. These would range from using plastic explosives to booby trapping Castro's desk. Rosselli would relay these on to Maheu, who, in turn, would contact the CIA. Most projects were vetoed, but the CIA did supply a short wave radio to the Cubans in Florida, to try and make contact with their people in Havana.
- Eventually, Rosselli felt the project had failed. There was no specific point when it was announced. But, at sometime Rosselli assumed the project, for whatever reason, had not succeeded.

C H R O N O L O G Y
(ALLEGATIONS AND REPORTS OF ANY
U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ASSASSINATIONS)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT OR ITEM</u>	<u>SOURCE</u> (Where Necessary)
1959	Richard Bissel becomes DDP (head of Plans Directorate)	
October 1960	Tap on Dan Rowan phone in Las Vegas (allegedly: (a) favor to Giancana, and (b) done by Rosselli)	Date and Rosselli role from Government Opposition paper to Rosselli motion for reduction in sentence, 1971
1961 Feb.	Lumumba mysteriously killed during Congolese strife.	Wash.Post & Star contemporaneous accounts
	News reports of CIA consideration of Lumumba plot, but claim it was done by others, e.g. Belgians?	Wash. Post 2/6/75 story by Lardener and Greider Tab A
Early 1961	Attempts to kill Castro before Bay of Pigs landing by Rosselli team	Jack Anderson 1967, 1971 and 1975 columns; Watergate Helms memcon
April 1961	Bay of Pigs Landing	
May 31, 1961	Trujillo assassinated; charge of U.S. involvement	Jack Anderson column (1/19/71) on Smathers conversation with JFK. Agee book (obviously suspect in some respects)
Rest of 1961 and 1962	Possibly ongoing efforts to Kill Castro by Rosselli team	last attempt by Rosselli team in 1963, <u>infra.</u>
Sometime in early 1960's	RFK quashes prosecution of Giancana for Rowan Las Vegas tap	Watergate memcons on Keeney and Wilson interviews
October 1962	Cuban Missile Crisis -(date for background reference)	
Early 1963	Rosselli training a team in Miami area	Wash. Post Greider/Lardener story, <u>supra.</u> , states Army Ranger Capt Ayres saw him
March 1963	Rosselli's last effort to kill Castro	J. Anderson 1971 columns
Sometime in 1963	RFK stopped further efforts	J. Anderson 1971 columns
November 1963	Diem killed in Saigon coup JFK told Smathers later he thought CIA involved	J. Anderson, 1/19/71 column
	Colby head of DDP Far East Division at the time	articles on Colby
Early 1964	Howard Hunt and others from Bay of Pigs effort begin plot on another Castro assassination	reported by Tad Szulc in book on Howard Hunt (1974)

(more on Hunt Castro project)

	Assassination alleged to have been planned as part of a smaller invasion effort and preparations were allegedly made in Costa Rica	Szulc, <u>supra</u>
May 1965	Hunt Castro scheme "aborted when Dominican Republic strife broke out (scheme also allegedly involved McCord, Barker and Sturgis)	" "
May 1965 (or later)	As Katzenbach/Helms/LBJ meeting on Dominican Republic ended, LBJ asked Helms if CIA had ever been involved in assassination (of a leader) and Helms said "no".	Katzenbach testimony to Senate Select Committee
1966	<i>CIA poisoning plot aq1 Haitian Pres. Duvalier; bombing palace in '66</i>	<i>Anderson col., 4/7/75</i>
1967	Rosselli indicted for alien law and interstate gambling crimes (Friars Club card game rigging)	Government Opposition to sentence reduction, <u>supra</u> .
March 3 1967	First Anderson column on Rosselli	We don't have, but Anderson referred to in Hersh NY Times story 3/10/75
1968	In response to Anderson story, RFK tells Walinsky and Edelman he shut it off; <i>CIA bombing Haitian palace</i>	Hersh story, <u>supra</u> <i>Anderson col., 4/7/75</i>
1968	Rosselli sentenced to 5 years	Government Opposition,
Early 1969	Asst. Atty Gen Wilson asks for Justice Dept. Rosselli file	Keeney Watergate memcon
1970	Rosselli goes before grand jury under immunity re: Giancana	Government Opposition, <u>supra</u>
1971 Jan. 18	First of three Anderson columns	
Jan. 19	<i>Maheu</i> Maheu (scheduled to go before grand jury on Las Vegas skimming) calls AG John Mitchell	Lenzner memo to Sen Ervin on Rosselli (and phone lo
	Same day: Haldeman asks Dean to inquire into Hughes/O'Brien/Maheu ties	" "
Jan. 27	Maheu interviewed by Wilson and Peterson on Rosselli matter	" "
Feb. 1	Caulfield to Dean memo that Maheu was involved in covert activity for CIA in early 1960's	" "
	Rosselli files motion for reduction in sentence, citing Anderson stories and presenting memorandum to Court	

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1961

After the Bay of Pigs (April 1961)

Rosselli felt "sorry for the poor bastards left on the beach." ~~Rosselli felt indirectly responsible for their deaths since he had encouraged many of them to participate in the invasion.~~ Two or three weeks after the invasion, Rosselli was contacted in Los Angeles by O'Connell, a meeting was arranged for at the airport hotel in Miami. Rosselli went there and was introduced to Harvey. O'Connell said Harvey was now in charge of the Cuban project. Harvey told Rosselli he was to cease all contact with Maheu and Giancana. Further, Harvey stated that the government was still interested in using Rosselli for intelligence-gathering operations. Rosselli would report information from the Cubans to Harvey about personalities and events in Cuba. Rosselli would also relay on to his Cuban contacts requests for specific information from the CIA.

Sometime between the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban missile crisis, Harvey gave Rosselli six poison capsules. Rosselli, in turn, gave them to his Cuban contacts who were to take them to Cuba, where another Cuban or Cubans would use them to assassinate Castro. Rosselli never learned the details of what happened, but the project obviously failed. At one point, Rosselli remembers hearing over the radio that Castro was very ill. A short time later, he recovered.

Sometime before the missile crisis, Rosselli arranged, pursuant to Cuban #1 request, for a van loaded with rifles and ammunition to be delivered in Florida. O'Connell and Rosselli watched the Cuban contact pick up the van and return it empty. Rosselli assumed that these guns were going to be used by the two or three-man raiding parties in Cuba to assassinate Castro and overthrow the government.

During the Cuban missile crisis, Rosselli was in Chicago. He contacted Harvey at Harvey's mother's home in Indianapolis and left his number in Chicago. Harvey then called him, told him to go to Washington, D.C. From Washington, D.C., Rosselli traveled to Florida where he stayed for the duration of the Cuban missile crisis. He, at times, would, through his Cuban contacts, attempt to verify the location of the Russian missiles in Cuba. Rosselli claimed that this had been successful. After the Cuban missile crisis, Harvey called Rosselli and told him to stop all contacts with any and all persons involved in past Cuban missions. Harvey never stated why the missions were being called off.

Rowan Tap

Rosselli said that he understood that Giancana had asked Maheu for a tap on Dan Rowan. Maheu gave Rosselli two stories. The first was that he was doing Giancana a favor and the second was that there was a real intelligence value in that Maheu was afraid that Giancana or Rowan might be giving out intelligence information that would be of value to enemies of the United States. Rosselli had not heard of the names Dubois or Belotti or Fred Harrison. He admitted that Harvey had discussed the tap with him, but both Harvey and Rosselli were mad that the operation had gone on. Giancana obviously knew about the tap. Maheu did ask Rosselli to get bail money for the two tappers who were caught and thrown in jail. Maheu suggested that Rosselli could get a hotel to turn over the bail money. Finally, Rosselli arranged to have a man with a green carnation in his lapel meet and transfer the bail money. He never received any of this money back. Rosselli claims that he did not know what type of tap went on. He admitted that he had been questioned by the FBI but he gave no answers. Rosselli knew that Maheu had been questioned by the FBI.